

Dr. Thomas Kashangaki, Director of Engineering, Futron



Dr. Thomas Kashangaki is the Director of Engineering at Futron Corporation. In this capacity he oversees all Engineering Division contracts, budgets and staff and is a member of the corporate Executive Team. Futron's Engineering Division provides state of the art modeling and simulation, risk analysis and system safety support to NASA, DoD and commercial aerospace organizations. Recent projects include the Probabilistic Risk Assessment of the International Space Station and a system safety assessment of the ORION Crew Exploration Vehicle.

Dr. Kashangaki has over 20 years of diverse experience at NASA, in academia, and in the aerospace and telecommunications industries. His NASA career began as an engineer at Langley Research Center and progressed to the management of the Space Station Freedom Structures and Mechanisms function. He served on the Space Station Re-Design Committee and was an astronaut candidate finalist. Dr. Kashangaki has published numerous journal and conference papers in the area of on-orbit damage detection in large space structures.

Dr. Kashangaki served three years as an Assistant Professor of Mechanical Engineering at the University of Maryland, before joining WorldSpace Corporation for five years as Director of Satellite Systems and as Vice President of Operations. At WorldSpace he managed the procurement of four communication satellites and the successful launch of two of those satellites on the Ariane launch vehicle. Later, at Winstar Communications, Dr. Kashangaki managed the deployment of a broadband telecommunications network across the U.S., Europe, and Latin America. During this period, he received a leadership award for the successful restructuring of several departments while significantly improving productivity. He has also held senior-level management and consulting positions with organizations such as The Strategis Group and The Dixon Group.

Dr. Kashangaki earned his B.S., M.S., and Ph.D. in Aerospace Engineering from the University of Michigan, as well as a Diploma in Space Studies from the International Space University in Strasbourg, France. He was born and grew up in Nairobi, Kenya, the third of 7 children. He has 2 sons – Christopher, 17 and Nicholas 9.